

# Daily Press Briefing: Discussion on Kenya

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**March 11, 2013**

**Victoria Nuland**, Spokesperson

**Daily Press Briefing, selections on Kenya**

**Washington, DC**

**QUESTION:** This weekend, Secretary Kerry put out a statement congratulating the Kenyan people on a peaceful election, but notably the statement did not mention the President-elect, Uhuru Kenyatta, by name, who is currently – he's currently under indictment from the ICC for war crimes. Was that omission on purpose?

**MS. NULAND:** Well, obviously, just to reiterate what Secretary Kerry said in his statement, the United States does congratulate the people of Kenya who voted peacefully on March 4<sup>th</sup>, and we congratulate those who were elected. I think you've seen that there has been a challenge put forward by Mr. Odinga to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, which is the legal and appropriate way to deal with concerns about the ultimate results. So that process obviously needs to move forward, and we'll go from there.

**QUESTION:** But was the omission of President-elect Kenyatta's name, was that omission on purpose?

**MS. NULAND:** I wouldn't read too much into the statement. But clearly, the post-electoral process continues, including through the courts, and that's appropriate. I want to also make the point that we were gratified to see that even in the face of some concerns, the streets in Kenya have been largely peaceful, which is something that we had sought and encouraged as well.

## **March 5, 2013, Press Statement**

**Patrick Ventrell**, Acting Deputy Spokesperson  
**Washington, DC**

The United States applauds the Kenyan people for participating peacefully in the March 4 national elections.

Although there were scattered acts of violence in two areas of the country, the vast majority of Kenyans voted in a calm, patient, and orderly manner. The final results are not in. Kenya's Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission is in the process of tallying the ballots and we expect final results soon. We encourage the electoral commission to continue its work in a thorough, transparent, and professional manner.

We encourage all Kenyans to come together and move forward peacefully to realize the full promise and benefits of the new constitution. We urge that any election disputes be resolved peacefully through the Kenyan legal system. It is critical that Kenya avoid the post-election violence that marred the December 2007 presidential contest.

**March 4, 2013**

**Patrick Ventrell**, Acting Deputy Spokesperson  
**Daily Press Briefing: Selections on Kenya**  
**Washington, DC**

**QUESTION:** Elections are underway in Kenya.

**MR. VENTRELL:** Yeah.

**QUESTION:** Okay, but some violence. What's your assessment so far?

**MR. VENTRELL:** So you're right, Scott, and I think you heard me talk a little bit about Kenyan elections last Friday and our strong message that we're encouraging free, fair, peaceful elections in Kenya.

So today, Kenyans are voting throughout their country. There are reports of high levels of voter turnout. The media and election observers report that the situation is generally calm and peaceful. We commend the Kenyan people, many of whom have patiently waited in long lines to vote, for their active and peaceful participation in the election. And we urge all candidates and their supporters to maintain peace as the results are tabulated and announced.

So we've also seen some isolated instances of violence down by the coast and in the northeast. We condemn any violence in the strongest terms and express our condolences to the families of those victims.

**QUESTION:** Is it your opinion that the Kenyan authorities are doing what they should be to confront those isolated incidents of violence?

**MR. VENTRELL:** I mean, again, we've seen the reports overnight. I don't have an update on the response. But our general impression – again, this is still ongoing – is that they've been generally calm and peaceful and orderly and that things are working fairly well. So – but we continue to urge for people to vote, to participate, and to be peaceful and calm as results come in.

**March 1, 2013**

**Patrick Ventrell**, Acting Deputy Spokesperson

**Daily Press Briefing: Selections on Kenya**

**Washington, DC**

**MR. VENTRELL:** Okay. Happy Friday, everybody. Welcome to the State Department. I've got one thing for you at the top. I think you all know there are very important elections taking place this weekend in Kenya. Kenya's national elections serve as a historic opportunity for Kenya to take another bold step in implementing its new constitution and strengthening its democracy. As Kenyans head to the polls to exercise their most fundamental democratic right, we hope that all Kenyans, no matter their gender, ethnicity, religion, or geographic affiliation, will exercise their right to vote peacefully and help ensure Kenya's elections are free, fair, and transparent, and put the collective interests of their country first.

The United States is a close friend and strong partner of the Kenyan people. We have contributed more than \$35 million to support electoral reform, civic education, and elections preparation since 2010, and more than \$90 million to support constitutional reform, conflict mitigation, civil society, and youth empowerment since 2008. So we stand together with all Kenyans, committed to the promise of a new constitution and to a more peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future.

**February 5, 2013**

**Victoria Nuland**, Spokesperson

**Daily Press Briefing**

**Washington, DC**

**February 5, 2013**

First of all, just to commend to all of you a video message that President Obama released today with regard to the upcoming Kenyan elections, calling on all Kenyans to commit to support the goal of free, fair, and peaceful elections on March 4<sup>th</sup>, and underscoring his commitment to the U.S.-Kenyan partnership. His personal engagement in this reflects the important place that Kenya occupies in East Africa and beyond.